



## WITHIN OUR BORDERS



AN ALBERTA  
GOVERNMENT  
PUBLICATION

- Beaver Moved
- Debtors Assisted
- Workers Trained
- Oil Sands Produce

NOVEMBER, 1967

# Beaver Trappers Still Kept Busy In Alberta

**T**HE BUSY BEAVER is viewed fondly by most Canadians as a friendly symbol of the country, but his unceasing activity lands him in hot water with his human neighbors on many occasions. The Fish and Wildlife Division of the Alberta Department of Lands and Forests receives 150 to 200 complaints per year about them.

The main complaints come from farmers and ranchers, and concern the flooding of hay meadows or low-lying grain fields near beaver-dammed streams, the impossibility of fording farm equipment across deepened creeks between fields, or the cutting of trees in woodlots or shelter belts.

A wildlife officer receiving a call about "nuisance beaver" will visit the site and take whatever action is considered best, in consultation with the property owner. Often it is sufficient to blast the dams to release the high water, for with the slight summer flow in many streams the level does not rise enough to become a problem again in the same season, after the beaver rebuild the dams.

If possible, the officers advise the property owner to leave the animals until winter, when they can be trapped by the farmer himself or a commercial trapper, and revenue received from the pelts.

However, in many cases the nuisance is too persistent, and then the wildlife officer will live-trap the animals and take them to remote areas to be released.

During the past summer about three dozen have been trapped, marked with an identifying number, and released in the Ducks Unlimited waters at Ministik Lake, southeast of Edmonton.

Live-trapping of beaver is not allowed for private citizens — it must be done by Wildlife Division representatives. The metal mesh traps, when set, look like big, open suitcases. When the animal moves in for the bait, the case snaps shut with the beaver inside.

Live trapping cannot always be accomplished when a complaint is received. A few years ago beaver in the North Saskatchewan River at Edmonton apparently decided the intake tunnel for the city's water plant looked like the start of an ideal lodge. Skindivers found the swift current around the intake too difficult for work or trapping, so the offending animals finally had to be shot.

Winter trapping of beaver yields a fairly consistent harvest of 45,000 or 50,000 pelts per



When this beaver and his friends . . .



. . . started cutting down trees bordering the fairways and greens of a golf course . . .



Trapper Ward Borst was called . . .



. . . and the little nuisances were evicted.

season in Alberta. Prices a few years ago were about \$30 per pelt, but more recently have averaged about \$11, sold at fur auctions or pri-

vately to fur dealers. The return to the provincial treasury, at 75 cents per pelt royalty, is between \$30,000 and \$40,000 per year. ●



# Debtors Assistance Board Closes 40-Year File

## Help Given Family To Save Farm Home

**I**LLUSTRATIVE OF THE SERVICES performed over the years by the Debtors Assistance Board of the Alberta Attorney General's Department in helping citizens arrange to pay their debts and safeguard their property is the Board's longest case file, closed happily this fall with the establishment of an elderly widow in her own home.

The file was in existence for more than 40 years, and in its accumulation of almost 500 pages of correspondence and documents it tells a story of the trials and troubles of a couple struggling to make a living and raise a family of 12 children through the 1920's and depression-day 1930's, through the war years and after.

It opened with a letter written to the Attorney General April 13, 1927, by an Alberta farmer. He explained he had been in hospital in 1925, had paid \$10 of a \$48.55 hospital bill, promising to pay the rest when he could make some money. However, a dried out crop on his quarter-section farm the next year had prevented payment.

Now, he wrote, the hospital had turned the bill over to a lawyer, who had sent the Sheriff "to seize my stock, cattle, horses, etc." What he wanted to know was "if the sheriff could sell my horses. I promise to pay the balance in the fall . . . after threshing my grain."

Correspondence between the then Debt Adjustment Board and the law firm won an agreement that a \$25 payment would allow the remainder of the bill to wait until fall. The farmer wrote that he would try to borrow money to pay the \$25, but he apparently was unsuccessful, for on June 28 the Board had to notify him the legal firm had told the Sheriff to start proceedings.

On Dec. 11, 1933, a new exchange in the file opened when an equipment dealer applied to start court action for \$114.75 owing by the farmer and a friend for a seed drill purchased in 1929. Following an investigation of the farmer's holdings and debts, a Board member wrote:

"It is obviously impossible for him to pay anybody at this time, and I suggest a refusal. I think the man is honest and is doing the best he can, although with his ten children he is going to have an extremely difficult time in working off his debts."

The application was refused, but the applicant waived \$14.75 of the amount to bring the action under the Small Debts Act.

A year later, Dec. 6, 1934, the Debt Adjustment Board was brought into negotiations on a larger matter, in which it was to be involved for 33 years. An assurance company applied for permission to start a foreclosure action, noting that an \$1,850 mortgage at 8 per cent, granted on the farm in July, 1930, had grown to \$2,613 because of lack of payments of interest and taxes.

The application was refused, but by next fall the company reapplied. This time permission was granted, for the company agreed to give the farmer a lease for 1936 and an option to repurchase the farm for the amount owing, providing he paid one year's taxes and interest. They also furnished him binder twine to cut his 1935 crop.

It appeared with permission to foreclose granted, the farmer's fears of losing his land might materialize. However, appeals under the Farmers' Creditors' Arrangements Act brought a review of the situation, and a composition under the Act fixed the claim at \$2,640.



Board Chairman Phillip Gibeau receives bulky file for last time from Mrs. R. E. Anderson.

So matters stood, with further statements of claim filed over the years, and another review in 1945, in which the interest rate was reduced to 5 per cent. In 1953 a new application was made to the courts, the statement of claim noting the debt had risen from the original \$1,850 to \$3,602.

With some money from crops and by selling 40 pigs at a good price the farmer managed to pay almost \$1,500 that year, and foreclosure action was delayed for a year. Hail and poor crop seasons followed, and only occasional payments of a few hundred dollars were made in the next two or three years.

In January, 1957, the man's wife called at the Debtors Assistance office to discuss the mortgage, and to report her husband had died in December, at the age of 66. She had paid funeral expenses, \$177 on taxes, and offered \$100 on the mortgage.

Late that year, the mortgage company expressed the view it could see "little prospect of ever getting paid except by sale of the property." The widow was determined to keep her farm, and notified the Board she had made arrangements with the company to pay off the debt in 10 years.

In the spring of 1958 the company received a court order nisi for the sale of the farm, but with a one-year period allowed for redemption. The following year the court ruled that since the woman did not wish to sell, and since the evaluation of the land was at least \$7,500, an eight-month adjournment was in order.

This was the pattern for the succeeding years, with the company applying annually to the courts, the courts noting the payments made and the current circumstances, and allowing extensions of time. By 1963, however, following crop failures, the widow had to notify the Debtors Assistance Board she had been unable to pay the taxes, and that she finally would have to agree to sell the land. The Board advised the company it might as well proceed with the foreclosure.

Nature helped with a good crop that year, and payments reduced the debt to \$812 by the

end of 1964. The following year the final extension to December, 1966, was granted by the court.

Before that time arrived, the woman, now over 70 years old, had reached an agreement for the sale of her farm, for more than \$12,000. In March, 1967, the mortgage company acknowledged receipt of \$612.86 in final payment of the debt which had been on the books for almost 37 years.

In the final court appearance on the matter, a representative of the Debtors Assistance Board had been able to save the debtor a considerable sum by noting that under legislation passed in 1939, costs of a foreclosure action could not be assessed against a farmer for debts incurred before July 1, 1936. Thus a depression-born law designed to protect poverty-stricken land owners was invoked for the first time in many years. It will undoubtedly also be the last time, for current revisions are expected to drop this provision obsolete.

With the money realized from the sale of the farm, the Debtors Assistance Board helped the woman pay off all outstanding debts, and helped her purchase a small home in Edmonton's west end. Enough money remained for her to buy a refrigerator and other household appliances which she had never had before.

The widow received title to her first debt-free home on October 11, 1967, and the Debtors Assistance Board closed its longest case.

"Within Our Borders" is a publication designed to acquaint the people of the Province with the administration of the Alberta Government.

There are no restrictions in the republishing of any material but a credit line would be appreciated.

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# Television Methods For School Use Evaluated



Larry Shorter, Co-ordinator of Alberta Pilot Projects for Television in Education, with "Teacher's PET" (Portable Educational Television).

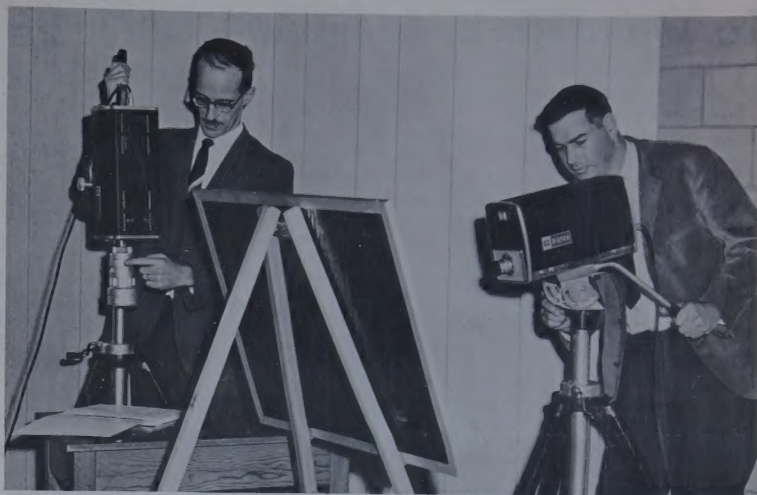
IN APRIL OF 1966, the Alberta Department of Education launched APPT (Alberta Pilot Projects on Television in Education). Primarily set up as a means of exploring and evaluating the use of television in Alberta schools, APPT now embraces major projects in Calgary and Edmonton, and many rural projects throughout the province.

The most recent ETV pilot project to come into being in Alberta is the one linking five schools in the county of Mountain View. Affectionately called COMET (County of Mountain View Educational Television), the Mountain View ETV operation will connect several rural points from one broadcast centre. Schools in the towns of Carstairs, Sundre, Olds, Cremona and Didsbury will receive programs from five microwave towers. The microwave equipment is being supplied and installed free of charge for a two-year period by Alberta Government Telephones. Programming is scheduled to begin in January.

Centre of operations for the producing and transmitting of school programs, will be a broadcast studio situated in the County office in Didsbury. Facilities will boast \$100,000 worth of studio and control room equipment, which will be rented from AGT. The installation will include two cameras, control equipment, and film and video tape equipment. As well as producing their own material, COMET will record and transmit "off-air" programs and exchange program material with other APPT centres.

The installation of studio, transmitting and receiving equipment is expected to be completed in January. In the meantime, APPT has supplied the County of Mountain View with "Teacher's Pet", a compact portable console, equipped with two cameras, a video tape recorder and allied production equipment.

With "Pet", simple programs can be produced and stored for broadcast until studio facilities are in full operation.



In charge of COMET produced educational programs are Gordon Gibson, Program Producer, left, and Don Copping, Technical Director. Initially, TV lessons to be video-taped will relate to high school French and guidance courses.



High school students from Sundre, on a tour of the County office in Didsbury, give special attention to video tape playback.

For the most part, the costs of the ETV pilot projects in Alberta are shared between the Department of Education and the local associations or school authorities. The ETV pilot projects in Edmonton and Calgary for example, are under the direction of associations in each city. The members of both associations represent the major educational interests in their respective metropolitan areas.

On yet another front, Biology 30 classes in seven Alberta districts will receive APPT produced television programs as part of their instruction this term. Teachers in four districts, Smoky Lake, Sangudo, Wainwright and Grande Prairie, will have the use of specially installed video tape recorders for the project. Meanwhile, the counties of Athabasca, Mountain View and Vermilion River, which already have educational television projects underway, will also join in the scheme.

The entire project is primarily aimed at supplementing instruction in rural areas of the province.



Terry Price accepts the award of Merit for Beauty from Queen Kiti Heberlein for the Province of Alberta exhibit in the International Pavilion of the Los Angeles County Fair. This exhibit was seen by over one and a quarter million visitors during the seventeen days of the annual exposition.



# Offices Of Two Departments Move To Quarters In Edmonton Buildings

OFFICES OF TWO GOVERNMENT of Alberta departments have moved to new quarters, Industry and Development to the new Centennial Building on Sir Winston Churchill Square in downtown Edmonton, west of City Hall, and branches of the Provincial Secretary's Department to the Financial Building, 10621 - 100 Avenue. The Ministers of the departments remain in the Legislative Building.

Office locations and new telephone numbers are:

## CENTENNIAL BUILDING

(Department of Industry and Development)

	Room	Telephone
Deputy Minister .....	1828	422-1667
Executive Assistant .....	1824	422-1537
Accountant and Personnel Officer .....	1829	422-5326
Mail Room .....	1609	422-5412
Bureau of Statistics .....	1529	422-5956
Licensing of Trades and Businesses .....	1515	422-5341
Co-operative Activities and Credit Unions Branch .....	1702	429-5691
Alberta Commercial Branch .....	1810	429-5721
Publicity Bureau .....	1618	429-5727
Alberta Government Travel Bureau .....	1629	429-2717
Alberta Power Commission .....	1710	422-5613
Industrial Development Branch .....	1721	429-5537

Northern Alberta Development Council .....	1724	422-0870
Freight Bureau .....	1812	422-1318

The Film and Photographic Branch remains at 117 Legislative Building, and the Community Development Branch remains at 204 Royal Trust Building.

Also located in the Centennial Building is the Alberta Ombudsman, Room 920, telephone 422-5755.

## FINANCIAL BUILDING

(Provincial Secretary's Department)

\*Telephone Numbers remain unchanged.

Deputy Provincial Secretary .....	5th floor
Accountant and Personnel Officer .....	5th floor
Cultural Development Branch .....	5th floor
Companies Branch .....	4th floor
Fire Prevention .....	6th floor
Insurance and Real Estate .....	6th floor
Centennial Branch .....	6th floor
Fuel Oil Tax Branch .....	10th floor

The Public Relations Branch remains at Room 230, Legislative Building. The Amusements Branch and Board of Censors remains in the Natural Resources Building. The Arts and Crafts section of Cultural Development Branch remains at the Public works Building, 12116 - 104 Avenue. The Provincial Museum and Archives are located in their new building, 12845 - 102 Avenue, telephone 482-5451.

# Field Crop Contest Winners Announced

WINNERS OF 1967 AWARDS in the annual 4-H Field Crop Competition have been announced by the 4-H and Junior Forest Workers Branch of the Alberta Department of Youth.

In the senior division, top winner was dora Webber of Berwyn with 989 points and 1,000. Henry Nyberg of High Prairie was second with 976 points. Runner-up was Kathryn Denek, High Prairie, with 967.

In the intermediate division, top winner was Norman Schwindt, Spruce Grove, with 933 points. Eldon Bushfield of Balzac, was second with 910 and runner-up was Jimmy Gibson, Carbon, with 928.

In the Junior division, top winner was Linda Smith of Veteran who scored 979. Second was Linda Crookes of Veteran with 969, and runner-up was Ted Burner, Evansburg, with 967.

Each plot of legumes, grasses or cereals entered in the competition was judged on the basis of uniformity of seeding, stage of maturity, freedom from weeds, disease, insects and other cultivated plants, as well as attractiveness of the sign identifying the project.

The sponsors of the contest are the Alberta Wheat Pool, The United Grain Growers, and the Alberta Pacific Grain Company, in co-operation with the Youth Department.

# Coming Events

## NOVEMBER

1-2	Edmonton Allied Arts Council - Roland Petit Ballet .....	Edmonton
1-2	Parade, fly past, trooping of Colour .....	Drumheller
1-2	Confederation Caravan .....	Drumheller
1-3	4th National Northern Development Conference .....	Edmonton
2-4	Alberta Motel Association Annual Convention .....	Lethbridge
5	Short Rally - N.A.S.C.C. ....	Edmonton
5-7	Alberta School Trustees' Assoc. Convention .....	Edmonton
6-7	Insurance Agents of Alberta Convention .....	Edmonton
6-9	Jewish Festivals in Home - Public Demonstration .....	Calgary
8-9	United Grain Growers of Alberta Convention .....	Edmonton
8-11	Light Opera of Edmonton .....	Edmonton
10-11	Royal Winnipeg Ballet .....	Calgary
11	Special Remembrance Day Ceremonies .....	Calgary
11	Les Chansonniers .....	Calgary
11	Special Remembrance Day Ceremonies .....	Edmonton
11	Remembrance Day Ceremonies .....	Rycroft
11-15	Ultra 400 Rally - C.A.S.L.C.C. ....	Red Deer
13-15	Flaire Fashion Show-Alled Arts Theatre .....	Calgary
13-18	Musical Theatre Production .....	Medicine Hat
14-17	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts Convention .....	Edmonton
15	Social Credit Convention .....	Red Deer
16-18	International Arabian Horse Show Association Convention .....	Calgary
17	Edmonton Public School Board - Centennial Pageant .....	Edmonton
17	"Show Boat" Lethbridge Musical Theatre .....	Lethbridge
17-18	Alberta Aviation Council Annual Convention .....	Banff
18-19	Edmonton Symphony Orchestra .....	Edmonton
18-19	Night Novex Rally - C.S.C.C. ....	Calgary
19-22	Alberta Social Credit League Convention .....	Edmonton
20-24	Canadian Rodeo Cowboys' Association Convention .....	Calgary
22-24	Civil Service Association of Alberta .....	Edmonton
22-25	Edmonton Opera Association - Der Fledermaus .....	Edmonton
26	Edmonton Symphony Orchestra - Pop Concert .....	Edmonton

26	Sports Car Autocross - N.A.S.C.C. ....	Edmonton
27-Dec. 1	Canadian Association of Apiculturists & National Beekeepers' Council Convention .....	Calgary
27-28	Alberta Flying Farmers' Annual Bonspiel .....	Calgary
29	Edmonton Scottish Society - Spectacle .....	Edmonton
30	Canadian Natural Gas Processing Association .....	Calgary
30-Dec. 1	Annual Fall Pure Bred Cattle Sale .....	Lethbridge

## DECEMBER

1	Holiday Theatre (Festival of Canada) .....	Medicine Hat
1-2	National Ballet of Canada .....	Edmonton
1-2	"Show Boat" Lethbridge Musical Theatre .....	Lethbridge
2	Lethbridge Musical Theatre .....	Lethbridge
3	Bon Accord Rally - N.A.S.C.C. ....	Edmonton
4-5	National Ballet Company .....	Calgary
6	Opening Day Museum and Archive .....	Edmonton
9-10	Edmonton Symphony Society .....	Edmonton
11-13	Holiday Theatre .....	Edmonton
12-13	Kiwanis Centennial Carol Festival .....	Red Deer
14	Holiday Theatre .....	Red Deer
14	Festival Canada on Tour .....	Stettler
14	U. of A. Interfraternity Song Fest .....	Edmonton
15-16	Holiday Theatre .....	Calgary
17	Handball Tournament .....	Red Deer
18	Holiday Theatre .....	Lethbridge
19	Holiday Theatre .....	Medicine Hat
21-22	Holiday Theatre .....	Calgary
25	Christmas Day .....	
26	Alberta Ballet Company - Christmas Box Concert .....	Edmonton
26	Boxing Day "Dice-on-Ice" - N.A.S.C.C. ....	Edmonton
26	Boxing Day Celebrations .....	Rycroft
26-29	Red Deer Theatre for Children .....	Red Deer
28-30	Christmas Pantomime .....	Lethbridge
29	Centennial Wind-Up Ball .....	Calgary
30	Centennial Wind-Up .....	Red Deer
31	Interdenominational Church Service .....	Red Deer
31	Centennial Year Closing Ceremonies .....	Edmonton
31	Centennial Closing Ceremonies .....	Rycroft





# TRADE & INDUSTRY WITHIN OUR BORDERS



## New Program Gives Staff Training For Industry

SOME 27 WOMEN taking training in the operation of power sewing machines at the Great Western Garment Company's plant in Edmonton, were recently awarded certificates of achievement from the Alberta Division of Vocational Education. Sixteen in the graduating class were new Canadians who also received additional instruction in basic English.

The trainees were the first to graduate in Alberta under the new Adult Occupational Training Scheme, a Federal-Provincial program to assist private industry. Under the new scheme, the Alberta Division of Vocational Education and Canada Manpower may now enter into Industrial Training Program contracts with Alberta industries, to upgrade and train new staff as required.

Great Western Garment Company and the Alberta Division of Vocational Education have actually been involved in training projects aimed at relieving a shortage of skilled labor in the Alberta clothing industry since the fall of 1965.

The responsibility of the firm under its basic contract is to provide all necessary training facilities, and instructors. A separate area was set up in one corner of the plant as a training centre, where it was felt new operators could learn their jobs in atmosphere conducive to learning.

The company pays its trainees a basic minimum wage during the course, and is then reimbursed by the federal government for what is termed "unproductive time".

Currently, the Alberta Division of Vocational Education is negotiating with a number of companies throughout the province to set up in-plant training programs similar to the one now underway at G.W.G. It is felt that such training schemes will enable companies to expand operations without hesitation, and at the same time do a great deal to bridge the gap between employers seeking skilled employees and unskilled people seeking work.



Part of the training room at the Great Western Garment Company plant in Edmonton is shown here. After the required training period, the trainees graduate to full time employment as power sewing machine operators.

## Licensing Catalogue Helps Industries Diversify

A LICENSING CATALOGUE and advisory bulletin service to Alberta manufacturers has been started by the Industrial Development Branch of the Alberta Department of Industry and Development. It is a service intended to help industries expand or diversify their production and, from the initial response, officials of the branch feel the venture will prove of value.

The service is based on a survey of manufacturers conducted late last year by means of questionnaires. Facts provided in the replies about manufacturing capacity and equipment, desire to produce under license or in a joint venture, to export or to distribute products, are entered in a detailed card index. From this index, which may contain up to 10,000 information cards, manu-

facturing queries may be sent quickly to firms in Alberta which might be interested.

Monthly bulletins listing current licensing opportunities are sent by the Industrial Development Branch to the manufacturers who have indicated interest in such opportunities. That the service is proving of value is indicated by one recent bulletin, sent to about 200 manufacturers, seeking companies able to make components for buses being assembled in Manitoba. Eleven replies were received, a five per cent return.

The circulation of the Bulletin is increasing in scope, and is now being directed to interested companies in other provinces which have been informed of its content. There are now over

800 companies listed in the index, representing manufacturers and distributors.

Listings of manufacturing opportunities for the bulletin come from foreign countries' trade representatives, from banks' commercial services, chambers of commerce, the federal department of trade and industry, and direct from manufacturers. To pinpoint them more directly to Alberta manufacturers who might be interested, it is proposed to divide the listings into two, those seeking licensing or joint venture manufacture, and those only seeking distributors. Two bulletins will be issued, instead of the present one.

Completion of the master catalogue is expected to speed the handling of inquiries received in Alberta and by the provincial offices in London, Los Angeles and Montreal.

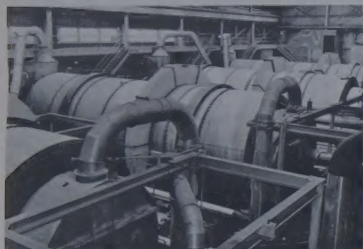


# Oil Sands Plant Largest Single Project In Alberta

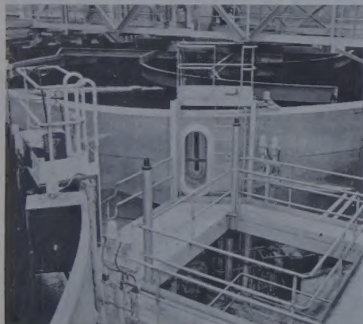
## 45,000 Barrels Per Day Extracted From Athabasca Petroleum Deposits



Oil sands mined by bucketwheel excavators are carried by conveyor belt to extraction plant. Trucks on roadway show size.



In rotating drums hot water and steam are mixed with tar sands to form a pulp, in initial stage of extracting bitumen.



In swimming-pool-size separation tanks, bitumen froth is skimmed from top by revolving blades; sand and water are drained from bottom.

THE LARGEST SINGLE industrial project ever completed in Alberta has gone into operation, with the opening of the Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited plant north of Fort McMurray.

From the start of construction in 1964 to the on-schedule official opening on September 30, 1967, a total of \$235 million has been invested in the plant, the first of its kind in the world. This includes financing costs and start-up expenses.

It is the first major commercial venture to utilize the vast petroleum resources of the Athabasca sands, long estimated to contain the largest single accumulation of oil in the world, apart from shale oil. The estimated total reserve is more than 600 billion barrels, of which 300 billion barrels is considered ultimately recoverable.

The oil sands underlie an area of 30,000 square miles. The Great Canadian Oil Sands lease covers 6.6 square miles, one-twentieth of one per cent of the total, yet its reserves are sufficient to operate the plant for 30 years at its initial allowable rate of 45,000 barrels per day.

The hot water separating process used at the plant is one developed by Research Council of Alberta under the leadership of Dr. Karl A. Clark, who was involved with tar sands research from 1922. Following his retirement from the Council, he served as consultant to GCOS until his death last December.

Everything in the pioneering GCOS installation is on a giant scale. After the earth "overburden" is scraped away from the surface, the exposed oil sands, 150 feet thick, are mined by two tremendous bucketwheel excavators, 12 storeys high, each weighing 1,700 tons and costing \$3.5 million. The buckets bite out 20 tons of sand with each revolution of the 30-foot wheel, for a total daily production of 108,000 tons.

Six-foot wide conveyor belts, speeding along at 1,000 feet per minute, carry the mined sand to the elevated bins of the processing plant. By the time the excavators eat their way to the outer limits of the lease, the conveyor belts will have stretched five miles long, and will still be carrying each day as much oil sands as a 16-mile-long railway could haul.

In the plant itself, the separation process is simple but the equipment is massive and complex. The sands are mixed with water and heated in giant rotating drums, then pumped to separation tanks. The bitumen floats to the top of the water and the sand sinks to the bottom. The bitumen is skimmed from the surface with slowly revolving wiper blades.

The sand and water are piped to a 500-acre tailings pond, where the sand settles and the water is pumped back to the plant for reuse. Twenty million gallons of water per day is required in the processing operation.

Eventually the sand tailings will be used to backfill the mined pits, covered with overburden and reforested, to heal the vast scar left by the mining operation.

Since the bitumen recovered in the separation plant is too heavy and viscous to be used directly, it must be processed further. It is subjected to deaeration and dehydration and then sent through a coking process, yielding a petroleum distillate and about 2,800 tons of coke per day.

The coke is used as fuel for the power plant, supplying electric power, steam and hot water, thus making the plant self-sustaining.

The distillate is subjected to desulphurization and hydrogenation. The sulphur plant recovers about 250 long tons of sulphur per day for sale.

The end product of the processing plant, the synthetic crude, is a clear, water-like liquid, extremely low in sulphur, nitrogen and oxygen, and an excellent raw material for the manufacture of gasoline, kerosene and heating oil.

On its way to market, the synthetic crude enters a new 266-mile, 16-inch GCOS pipeline to Edmonton, to connect with the Interprovincial Pipeline. Sun Oil Company through its Canadian subsidiary, Sun Oil Company Limited, which owns 81.8 per cent of Great Canadian Oil Sands, is committed to purchase 75 per cent of the production, a large portion of which will be refined in their Sarnia refinery. Shell Canada Limited is committed to purchase the remainder.



Giant processing plant of Great Canadian Oil Sands is shown in aerial view. Cliff of sand being mined is at upper right. Black mound at left is coke extracted from bitumen and used to fuel the power plant. The largest tower is power house stack, 350 feet high.



# Fort McMurray Transformed Into Modern Town

## Venture Will Have Impact On Economy Of Town, Province

Construction of the Great Canadian Oil Sands plant has had and will continue to have a tremendous influence on the economy of Fort McMurray and of Alberta.

The increase in population for the sparsely-settled area has been great. Fort McMurray has increased from 1,200 residents to about 4,000 in three years.

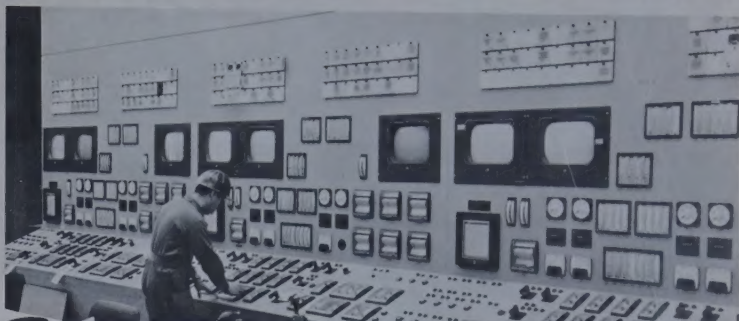
Over the period of construction about 8,000 people were employed, a peak of 2,300 at one time during 1966.

In operation, there will be about 450 GCOS employees at the plant and offices, as well as about 250 maintenance personnel employed by Catalytic Construction of Canada Ltd. which has the maintenance contract.

The payroll will be approximately \$6,800,000 annually. The total direct impact on the Alberta economy, including payroll, taxes and royalties will be about \$16,000,000 per year.

Great Canadian Oil Sands listed 82 major suppliers, those involved in more than \$100,000 expenditures, and of these 43 were Alberta companies. There were 19 from other parts of Canada, 17 from the United States, and three from Germany.

The impact in Fort McMurray has been dramatic. New schools, stores, churches, hotels and motels have been built. Twice-daily air service from its modern airport to Edmonton has been provided, and an all-weather road built to connect with the provincial highway system. New apartment buildings and new residential subdivisions have been completed to house the thousands of new residents. A frontier outpost has been transformed to a modern town. ●



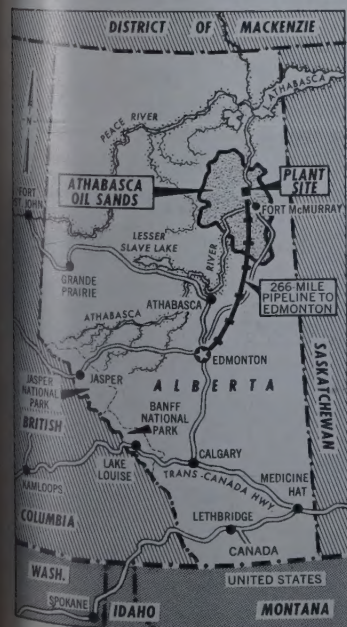
This is the control room panel of the power house. The television screens monitor flames inside the furnaces.



A temporary town of trailer cabins was built at the camp site during construction to house workmen. As many as 2,300 were employed at one time.



Fort McMurray has quadrupled in population. Temporary neighborhoods of trailer homes, top, are giving way to modern, attractive subdivisions.



Map shows area of development.



# SURVEY OF THE TOWN OF EDSON

## LOCATION

Section 15-53-17W5 in Census Division 14. This is 130 miles west of Edmonton on Highway No. 16, the Yellowhead Route, and on the main line of the Canadian National Railway from Edmonton to Vancouver.

## ALTITUDE

2,985 feet. Latitude - 53/35; Longitude - 116/25.

## TEMPERATURE

Summer average 53°F. Winter average 23°F. Annual average 36°F.

## PRECIPITATION

Total annual precipitation (37-year average) 20.27 inches.

## POPULATION

Town, 3,943; trading area, 13,000.

## GEOLOGY AND SOIL

The underlying rocks in the Edson district are shales and sandstones which were deposited by streams in lakes and deltas, to a depth of several hundred feet. The rocks, of the "Paskopow Formation," are of the early Tertiary Age which began some fifty million years ago. Since they were deposited, the North American continent has risen, so the rocks have eroded to a fraction of their original thickness. During the Ice Age, glaciers moving over the surface left boulder clay and similar deposits, which make up many of the hills and smaller elevations in the area.

The soil in this district is of the Grey Wooded variety, developed under humid soil moisture conditions. The surface horizons consist of a semi-decomposed leaf mold layer that may be missing if the area has been burned over; a thin (sometimes absent) lower horizon that may be grey-black, brown or grey-brown, and a severely-leached and platy greyish horizon six to eight inches deep. The deeper horizons are heavier textured, compact and often darker in color than the top. The depth to lime is variable, ranging from 30 to 50 inches.

Soils in this zone are relatively less fertile because of leaching, but patches of transition soil are found. Vegetation is that found in a mixed deciduous and evergreen woodland in which peats and muskogs occur.

This is mixed farming area, in which legumes, hays and coarse grains are the most desirable crops. Rotations, including legumes, supplemented with fertilizers where needed, have given the most satisfactory results.

## HISTORY

The town of Edson was originally established as Heatherwood, but it was renamed in 1911 for Edson J. Chamberlain, vice-president and general manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. Rails were laid in 1910 and the first train arrived in July of that year. Wolf Creek, 10 miles east, was the original site for the town but the G.T.P. refused to buy from the real estate brokers who had bought it for resale, so the Edson divisional point was located on a site that included much muskeg.

Edson was incorporated as a town in September, 1911, and that same year the first two-room school and the first bank were established. Edson was the starting point for the north for several years, and mail for Grande Prairie was carried by stagecoach and horseback from July, 1911, until April, 1915.

## LIVING CONDITIONS

Edson is in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, 75 miles from the east gate of Jasper National Park and 105 miles from the town of Jasper. It is a busy centre, with ties, lumber, pulp, gas, oil, and sulphur development. Numerous stores give excellent service. The area is a sportsman's delight with good fishing and boating, and good hunting, for upland birds and waterfowl, and for deer, moose, elk and bear. Some 85 per cent of the homes in the town are owner-occupied.



*Business Area of Edson*

There are offices of many federal, provincial and civic services in the town.

Churches include the Anglican, United, Pentecostal Tabernacle, Roman Catholic, Russian Greek Orthodox, Dutch Christian Reformed, Baptist, Jehovah's Witness, Grace Lutheran.

Health services include St. John's Hospital, operated by the Sisters of Service of Canada, with accommodation of 32 beds and five bassinets. A new hospital is being planned. There is a modern clinic which houses the doctors and dentist. There are three doctors, one dentist, two chiropractors, two drug stores, an ambulance service and a funeral home. The Edson Health Unit serves an area from Drayton Valley and Evansburg west to Hinton, and has a doctor, health inspector, sanitary inspector, nurses and stenographer technician.

## ADMINISTRATION

The town is governed by a mayor elected for a two-year term and six councillors, two elected each year for a three-year term. It is administered by a permanent secretary-manager and staff.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

The town has its own police protection, with a chief and four constables. There is also an R.C.M.P. barracks in town, the detachment including a corporal and three constables, and a three-man highway patrol.

## BUILDING REGULATIONS

A zoning by-law divides the town into districts, prescribing the purpose for which buildings and land may be used. All plans for new buildings, alterations and removal of buildings must be submitted to the Building Inspector, who issues permits.

Sanitary regulations comply with Alberta Public Health Regulations.

## FIRE PROTECTION

The fire brigade includes a chief and 14 volunteer firemen. Equipment includes a 500 g.p.m. pumper with a 500-gallon water tank, 3,500 feet of hose, extension and roof ladders, protective gear and hand tools. A fire alarm system connects to all firemen's homes. There are 61 fire hydrants throughout the town.

## UTILITIES

Water is obtained from five wells, 108 to 316 feet deep. It is pumped into a 100,000 gallon ground reservoir or directly into the supply system and thence to a 500,000-gallon elevated steel ground reservoir or to a 50,000-gallon steel elevated tank. There are 941 metered service connections, and consumption in 1966 exceeded 65 million gallons. There are 13.97 miles of water mains, 16.3 miles of sanitary sewers and 1.47 miles of storm sewers.

Three-phase 60-cycle electrical power is supplied by Calgary Power Ltd.

Natural gas is supplied to the town under a franchise to Northwestern Utilities Limited.

L.P. gas and Diesel fuel also are available from storage facilities.

## EDUCATION

Edson School Division No. 12 includes complete elementary, junior and senior high school system, for all grades through 12. A program of ungraded primary grouping which was introduced in the Edson Division in 1959 has proven successful and is being extended to the upper elementary levels. Nearly all electives are taught in the junior and senior high schools with home economics and shop providing maximum number of courses. All units are provided with an audiovisual room. The school population is made up of: Elementary, Grades 1 to 6, 47 teachers and 1,065 pupils; Junior High, Grades 7 to 9, 24 teachers and 424 pupils; High School, Grades 10 to 12, 17 teachers and 290 students.

A 30-room Senior Vocational School, a 15-room Elementary School, and a 6-room addition to the Junior High School were all on the 1966 construction program.

## RECREATION

There are 50 acres of public parks and playgrounds in the town's total of 1,397 acres. The Edson Public Library, containing 6,650 volumes is operated by the Library Board, receives the usual provincial grant and is tax-supported.

The Edson Craft Centre has established a shop and offers participation and classes in weaving, pottery, leather work, wood work and art. There are two five-piece orchestras and a dance school.

Sports facilities include a covered curling rink with four sheets of artificial ice, a covered hockey and skating arena with artificial ice, sports ground with swimming pool and wading pool, camp and picnic grounds, rodeo grounds and race track, golf course, ski lift. Wilmore park is located one mile west and one mile south of the town. An Agricultural Fair, two-day stamped and two sports days are held yearly. A theatre and eight other halls and auditoriums offer seating capacity for 100 to 1,000 persons.

There are seven lodges and ten service club organizations and ten societies and associations, as well as several youth activity groups.

The newly-developed \$100,000 Lions' Park serves an expanding tourist traffic, with Vacation Trails radiating from the town. The Park has a tourist centre, picnic and tenting facilities, community centre, miniature railway, a model coal mine, wading pool, sand pit, a miniature fort, slides and playground. A children's fish pond will be stocked with rainbow trout.

The Silver Summit ski area is under development, 28 miles north of Edson.

## BUILDING SITES

Good industrial sites with adjacent trackways and highway facilities are available.

## TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION

Edson is on the main line of the Canadian National Railways and on Highway 16, main east-west highway from Lloydminster to Jasper and the Yellowhead Route. Grey Bus Lines offers daily service east and west, and there is daily truck service to and from Edmonton. There are two taxi companies, an ambulance service, and an airstrip for light planes.

Communications are provided by Canadian National Telegraphs, Alberta Government Telephone, Post Office, teletype and mobile radio units. The nearest radio stations are in Edmonton, with a repeater station for CBX in Edson, and approval has been given for a new station in Edson. The nearest television stations are in Edmonton, with signals received in Edson from rebroadcast stations at Whitecourt, CBX-TV on Channel 9 and CFRN-TV on Channel 12.

There is a weekly newspaper, the Edson Leader.

## ACCOMMODATION

There are two hotels with a total of 88 rooms, and five motels with 72 units. There are four trailer parks.